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FROM frequently reflecting upon the Course and Method of Educating Youth in this and a Neighbouring Kingdom, with the general Success and consequence thereof; I am come to this Determination, That Education is always the worse in Proportion to the Wealth and Grandeur of the Parents. Nor do I doubt in the least, that if the whole World were now under the Dominion of one Monarch (provided I might be allowed to chuse where he should fix the Seat of his Empire) the only Son and Heir of that Monarch, would be the worst Educated Mortal, that ever was born since the Creation: And, I doubt the same Proportion will hold through all Degrees and Titles, from an Emperor downwards, to the common Gentry. I do not say that this hath been always the case: for in better times it was directly otherwise; and a Scholar may fill half his *Greek* and *Roman* Shelves with Authors of the Noblest Birth, as well as highest Virtue. Nor, do I tax all Nations at

preſent with this defect, for I know there are ſome to be excepted, and particularly *Scotland*, under all the Diſadvantages of it's Clymate and Soyle, if that happineſs be not rather owing even to thoſe very diſ-advantages. What is then to be done, if this Reflection muſt fix on two Countries, which will be moſt ready to take Offence, and which of all others it will be leaſt prudent or ſafe to offend?

But there is one Circumſtance yet more Dangerous and Lamentable. For if, according to the Poſtulatum already laid down, the higher Quality any Youth is of, he is in greater likelyhood to be worſe Educated, it behooves me to dread, and keep far from the Verge of *Scandalum Magnatum*.

Retracting therefore that hazardous Poſtulatum, I ſhall venture no further at preſent than to ſay, that perhaps ſome Additional Care in Educating the Sons of Nobility, and principal Gentry, might not be ill employed. If this be not delivered with ſoftneſs enough, I muſt for the future be Silent.

In the mean time, let me ask only two Queſtions, which relate to a Neighbouring Kingdom, from whence the Chief among us are deſcended, and whoſe manners we moſt affect to follow. I ask firſt, how it comes

comes about, that for above 60 Years past, the Chief Conduct of Affairs in that Kingdom hath been generally placed in the Hands of *New-men*, with very few Exceptions. The Noblest Blood of *England* having been shed in the grand Rebellion, many great Families became extinct, or supported only by Minors: when the King was Restored, very few of those Lords remained, who began, or at least had improved their Education, under the happy Reign of King *James*, or King *Charles* I, of which Lords the two principal were the Marquiss of *Ormonde*, and the Earl of *Southampton*. The Minors have or had, during the Rebellion and Usurpation, either received too much Tincture of bad Principles from those Fanatick Times, or coming to Age at the Restoration, fell into the Vices of that dissolute Reign.

I Date from this Æra, the Corrupt Method of Education among us, and the consequence thereof, in the Necessity the Crown lay under of Introducing *New-men* into the chief Conduct of publick Affairs, or to the Office of what we now call Prime Ministers, Men of Art, Knowledge, Application, and Insinuation, meerly for want of a supply among the Nobility. They were generally (though not always) of good Birth, sometimes Younger Brothers, at other times, such

who although inheriting good Estates, yet happened to be well Educated, and provided with Learning; such under that King, were *Hyde*, *Bridgman*, *Clifford*, *Counley*, *Osborn*, *Godolphin*, *Ashley-Cooper*; Few or none under the short Reign of King *James* II. Under King *William*; *Somers*, *Montague*, *Churchil*, *Vernor*, *Harry Boyle*, and many others: Under the Queen; *Harley*, St. *John*, *Harcourt*, *Trevers*, who indeed were Persons of the best private Families, but unadorn'd with Titles. So in the last Reign, Mr. *Robert Walpole*, was understood for many Years, to be Prime Minister, in which Post he still happily continues; His Brother *Horace* is Ambassador Extraordinary to *France*. Mr. *Addison*, and Mr. *Craggs*, without the least allowance to support them, have been Secretaries of State.

If the Facts have been thus for about 60 years past (whereof I could with a little further Recollection produce many more Instances) I would ask again, how it hath happened, that in a Nation plentifully abounding with Nobility, so great share in the most important parts of publick management, hath been for so long a Period chiefly entrusted to Commoners; unless some Omissions, or Defects of the highest Import, may be charged upon those to whom the care of Educating

our Noble Youth hath been committed. For, if there be any difference between human Creatures in the point of natural Parts, as we usually call them, it should seem, that the Advantage lyes on the side of Children born from Noble and Wealthy Parents; the same Traditional Sloth and Luxury which render their Body Weak and Effeminate, perhaps refining and giving a freer motion to the Spirits, beyond what can be expected from the gross robust Issue of meaner Mortals. Add to this, the peculiar Advantages, which all young Noblemen possess, by the Priviledges of their Birth. Such as a free access to Courts, and a universal Deference pay'd to their Persons.

But as my Lord *Bacon* chargeth it for a fault on Princes, that they are impatient to compass Ends without giving themselves the trouble of consulting or executing the means. So perhaps it may be the disposition of young Nobles, either from the indulgence of Parents, Tutors and Governors, or their own Inactivity, that they expect the accomplishments of a good Education without the least expence of Time or Study to acquire them.

What I said last, I am ready to retract; For the case is infinitely worse; and the very Maxims set up to direct modern Edu-

cation, are enough to destroy all the Seeds of Knowledge, Honour, Wisdom, and Virtue among us. The current Opinion prevails that the study of *Greek* and *Latin* is loss of Time; that publick Schools by mingling the Sons of Noblemen, with those of the Vulgar, engage the former in bad Company; That whipping breaks the Spirits of Lads well Born; That Universities make young Men Pedants. That, to Dance, Fence, speak *French*, and know how to behave your self among great Persons of both Sexes, comprehends *the whole duty of a Gentleman.*

I cannot but think this wise System of Education, hath been much cultivated among us by those Worthies of the Army, who during the last War returning from *Flanders* at the close of each Campaign, became the Dictators of Behaviour, Dress and Politeness to all those Youngsters, who frequent Chocolate-Coffee-Gaming-Houses, Drawing-Rooms, Opera's, Levees, and Assemblies; where a Colonel by his Pay, Perquisites, and Plunder, was qualifyed to outshine many Peers of the Realm; and by the influence of an *exotick* Habit and Demeanor, added to other foreign Accomplishments, gave the Law to the whole Town, and were copyed as the Standard-Patterns of whatever was refined in Dress, Equipage, Conversation, or Diversions.

I

I remember in those Times, an Admired Original of that Vocation, sitting in a Coffee-house near two Gentlemen, whereof one was of the Clergy, who were engaged in some discourse that savoured of Learning; This Officer thought fit to interpose, and professing to deliver the Sentiments of his Fraternity as well as his own (and probably did so of too many among them) turning to the Clergyman, spoke in the following manner. *D—n me, Doctor, say what you will, the Army is the only School for Gentlemen. Do you think my Lord* Marlborough *beat the* French, *with* Greek *and* Latin. *D—n me, a Scholar when he comes into good Company; what he is but an Ass: D—n me, I would be glad by G—d to see any of your Scholars with his Nouns, and his Verbs, and his Philosophy, and Trigonometry, what a figure he would make at a Siege or Blockade or recounting — D—n me* &c. After which he proceeded with a Volley of Military Terms, less significant, sounding worse, and harder to be understood than any that were ever Coyned by the Commentators upon *Aristotle*. I would not here be thought to charge the Soldiery with Ignorance and contempt of Learning, without allowing Exceptions, of which I have known many, and some even in this Kingdom, but however, the worse example, especially

pecially in a great Majority will certainly prevail.

I have heard that the late Earl of *Oxford* in the time of his Ministry, never past by *White's Chocolate-house* (the common Rendezvous of infamous Sharpers, and noble Gullies) without bestowing a Curse upon that famous Accademy, as the Bane of half the *English* Nobility. I have been likewise told another passage concerning that great Minister; which because it gives a humorous Idea of one principal Ingredient in modern Education, take as followeth. *Le-Sac* the Famous *French* Dancing-master in great Admiration asked a friend, whether it were true that Mr. *Harley* was made an Earl, and Lord Treasurere And finding it confirmed, said; *Well, I wonder what the Devil the Queen could see in him; for I attended him two Years, and he was the greatest Dunce that ever I taught.*

Another hindrance to good Education, and I think, the greatest of any, is that pernicious custom in Rich and Noble Families, of entertaining *French* Tutors in their Houses. These wretched *Padagogues* are enjoyned by the Father, to take special care, that the Boy shall be perfect in his *French*; By the Mother, that *Master* must not walk till he is hot, nor be suffered to play with

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other Book, nor be wet in his Feet, nor daub his Cloaths, and to see that the Dancing-master attends constantly, and does his Duty: she further injoins that the Child be not kept too long poring on his Book, because he is subject to sore Eyes, and of a weakly Constitution.

By these methods the young Gentlemen is in every Article as fully accomplished at 8 Years old as at eight and twenty (being the growth of his Person and his Vice) so that if you should look at him in his Boyhood through the magnifying end of a Perspective, and in his Manhood through the other, it would be impossible to spy any difference: The same Airs, the same Strutt, the same Cock of his Hat, and posture of his Sword (as far as the change of fashions will allow) the same understanding, the same compass of knowledge, with the very same Assurance, Impudence, and Impertinency of Tongue.

He is taught from the Nursery that he must inherit a great Estate, and hath no need to mind his Book, which is a Lesson he never forgets, to the end of his life. His chief Solace is to steal down and play at Span-farthing with the Page, or young Blackamoor, or little favorite Foot-boy, one of which is his principal Confident, and Bosom-friend.

There

There is one young Lord in this Town, who by an unexampled piece of good Fortune, was miraculously snatched out of the Gulph of Ignorance, confined to a publick School for a due Term of Years, well Whipped when he deserved it; clad no better than his Comrades, and always their Play-fellow on the same foot, had no Precedence in the School, but what was given him by his Merit, and lost it whenever he was Negligent. It is well known how many Mutinies were bred at this unprecidented Treatment, what complaints among his *Relations*, and other great *Greatnes* of both Sexes; that his Stockings with silver Clocks were ravished from him, that he wore his one Hair, that his dress was undistinguished; that he was not fit to appear at a Ball or Assembly, nor suffered to go to either. And it was with the utmost difficulty that he became qualifyed for his present removal, where he may probably be farther Persecuted, and possibly with Success, if the firmness of a very Worthy Governor, and his own good Dispositions will not preserve him. I confess, I cannot but wish he may go on in the way he began, because I have a curiosity to know by so singular an Experiment, whether Truth, Honour, Justice, Temperance, Courage and

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good Senſe required by a *School* and *College* Education, may not produce a very tolerable Lad, although he ſhould happen to fail in one or two of thoſe accompliſhments, which in the general Vogue, are held ſo important to the finiſhing of a Gentlemen.

It is true, I have known an Accademical Education to have been exploded in publick Aſſemblies; and have heard more than one or two Perſons of high Rank, declare they could learn nothing more at *Oxford* and *Cambridge*, than to drink Ale and ſmoke Tobacco; wherein I firmly believ'd them, and could have added ſome hundred Examples from my own obſervation in one of thoſe Univerſities, but they all were of young Heirs ſent thither, only for form, either from Schools where they were not ſuffered by their careful Parents, to ſtay above three Months in the Year, or from under the management of *French* Family-Tutors, who yet often attended them to their *College*, to prevent all poſſibility of their Improvement. But, I never yet knew any one Perſon of Quality, who followed his Studies at the Univerſity, and carryed away his juſt Proportion of Learning, that was not ready upon all occaſions to celebrate and defend that courſe of Education, and to prove a Patron of Learned Men. There

There is one circumſtance in a learned Education, which ought to have much weight, even with thoſe who have no Learning at all. The Books read at *Schools* and *Colleges*, are full of Incitements to Virtue, and Diſcouragements from Vice, drawn from the wiſeſt Reaſons, the ſtrongeſt Motives, and the moſt influencing Examples. Thus, young Minds are filled early with an inclination to Good, and an abhorrence of Evil, both which encreaſe in them, according to the advances they make in Literature: And, although they may be, and too often are, drawn by the Temptations of Youth, and the Opportunities of a large Fortune, into ſome Irregularities, when they come forward into the great World, it is ever with Reluctance and Compunction of Mind, becauſe their Byas to Virtue ſtill continues. They may ſtray ſometimes out of Infirmity or Complyance, but they will ſoon return to the right Rode, and keep it always in view. I ſpeak only of thoſe Exceſſes, which are too much the Attendants of Youth and warmer Blood; for, as to the Points of Honour, Truth, Juſtice, and other noble Gifts of the Mind, wherein the temperature of the Body hath no concern, they are ſeldom or never known to be Mild.

I have engaged my self very unwarily in too copious a Subject for so short a Paper. The present Scope I would aim at is to prove, that some Proportion of human Knowledge appears requisite to those, who by their Birth or Fortune, are called to the making of Laws, and in a subordinate way to the execution of them; and that such Knowledge is not to be obtained without a Miracle under the frequent, corrupt, and sottish Methods, of educating those who are born to Wealth or Titles. For, I would have it remembred, that I do by no means confine these Remarks to young Persons of Noble Birth; the same Errors running through all Families, where there is Wealth enough to afford, that their Sons (at least the Eldest) may be good for nothing. Why should my Son be a Scholar, when it is not intended that he should live by his Learning? By this Rule, if what is commonly said be true, that Money answereth all Things, why should my Son be honest, temperate, just, or charitable, since he hath no intention to depend upon any of these Qualities for a Maintenance.

When all is done, perhaps upon the whole, the matter is not so bad as I would make it; and, God, who worketh good out of evil, acting only by the ordinary cause and rule of Nature, permits this continual

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Circulation of human things, for his own unsearchable Ends. The Father grows rich by Avarice, Injustice, Oppression; he is a Tyrant in the Neighbourhood, over Slaves and Beggars, whom he calls his Tenants. Why should he desire to have qualities infused into his Son, which himself never possessed, or knew, or found the want of in the acquisition of his Wealth: The Son bred in Sloth and Idleness, becomes a Spendthrift, a Cully, a Profligate, and goes out of the World a Beggar, as his Father came in: Thus, the former is punished for his own Sins, as well as for those of the latter. The Dunghil having raised a huge Mushroom of short duration, is now spread to enrich other Mens Lands. It is indeed of worse consequence, where noble Families are gone to decay; because their Titles and Priviledges out-live their Estates: And, Politicians tell us, that nothing is more dangerous to the Publick, than a numerous Nobility without Merit or Fortune. But even here, God hath likewise prescribed some Remedy in the order of Nature; so many great Families coming to an end by the Sloth, Luxury, and abandoned Lusts, which enervated their Breed thorough every Succession, producing gradually a more effeminate Race, wholly unfit for Propagation,